

Command Sponsorship Program Revised Policy



Questions & Answers

Are CSP slots first come, first serve?

No. The intent of providing command sponsorship is to allow commanders flexibility and discretion to allocate CS billets to maximize mission readiness and continuity.

What will happen to the people on the current waiting list?

We have currently 209 Airmen on the waiting list. Commanders will contact the personnel on the list and inform them where they stand in terms of getting a command sponsored billet. Airmen with a current follow-on will be removed from the list. No one is grandfathered. Our goal is for Korea to continue its transition to full tour normalization. It will take at least 5 years for the right infrastructure to be in place.

Why didn't the advertising meet the current demand for command sponsorship?

Korea is still a wonderful place for families to come. It is an overwhelming positive experience. However, we do not have the infrastructure to support the demand. Therefore, it caused us to reevaluate and implement a more transparent and viable program.

What is the difference between the new and old policy?

It is no longer first come, first serve. The CSP approval authority will be no lower than an O-6. The new policy will be reviewed quarterly instead of annually to meet mission readiness and ensure the right continuity for specific requirements. We also simplified the process to provide more predictability and transparency.

When can Airmen to apply under the new regulations?

Airmen can apply for CSP under the new regulations now. The first step after assignment notification is to request a CSP

slot through the Military Personnel Section and your gaining unit commander in Korea. With oversight from O-6 level commanders, the gaining unit commander will make a determination on the Airman's CSP eligibility/likelihood in a CSP billet being available for his/her position. It is best to discuss this with your unit commander in Korea.

It seems that the CSP favors officers or enlisted?

The Priority 1 key billets are all officers, command chiefs and select AF CMSgts. Those positions are approved by the DoD. No service member will be denied the opportunity to apply for command sponsorship. The new 2015 Strategic Alliance caused timelines to be adjusted. However, our goal is for Korea to continue its transition to full tour normalization. This transition will take at least 5 years for the right infrastructure to be in place.

How will this affect my KAIP?

Airmen projected to a designated key billet must serve the 24 month tour regardless of accompanied status and are not eligible for the Korea Assignment Incentive Pay. If a CSP slot is requested and denied, the Airman will be required to serve the unaccompanied tour length. Airman will have 30 days from receipt of a CSP denial to submit a follow-on or home-basing request or decline participation in the KAIP program.

How many are on the CSP waiting list?

There are approximately 209 Airmen on the waiting list

How long is the average wait time?

It varies depending on the position and mission requirements. It could take 8-12 months before being approved for a CSP...and even then, it is not guaranteed.

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How long will it take to build the required schools and housing needed to accommodate more families?

We are working with Office of the Secretary of Defense and military services to put infrastructure/funding in place to support more families. In September, the Secretary of Defense restated his support for tour normalization and asked services to continue to grow the number of families in Korea, taking account the feasibility of existing infrastructure, resources and available funding. It will take time to build the appropriate infrastructure, but we are dedicated to make tour normalization a reality.

Can Airmen live off-base and ship their families at their own expense without an approved CSP slot?

Some families have chosen to pay their own expenses so they can live here in Korea. However, since the appropriate infrastructure and support, such as medical, dental and child care, are not in place, it is recommended to not do so.

What is the process to apply for a CSP slot?

The first step after assignment notification is to request a CSP slot through the Military

Personnel Section and your gaining unit commander in Korea. Your gaining unit commander will make a determination on your CSP eligibility/likelihood of a CSP billet being available for you. It is best to discuss this with your unit commander in Korea.

What are the criteria for a Priority 3 CSP slot?

Priority 3 slots give commanders discretion in selecting the remaining number of command-sponsored positions authorized by current tour normalization availability.

Commanders will consider factors such as personnel returning from deployments or remote-unaccompanied tours, dual military with children, single parents, consecutive overseas tours and junior rank opportunities.

Can a dual-military couple occupy two CSP slots?

No, unless the couple occupy key billet positions. Only one service member needs apply for CSP per family. Usually, the highest ranking member will submit the CSP request.

If I get a follow-tour, does that make me ineligible for a CSP slot?

Yes.

Information for Non-Command Sponsored Dependents

Non-Command Sponsored Dependents are defined as dependents residing with the Airman at the overseas location, where the accompanied-by-dependents tour may or may not be authorized, and who are not authorized or approved to reside with the Airman at an OCONUS location.

All incoming personnel should carefully consider the following information before making a financial commitment to bring non-command sponsored dependents to Korea.

Although Osan is increasing its authorized command sponsored positions, access to support infrastructure such as child care, schools, and medical should be carefully considered before choosing to bring families that are non-command sponsored.

HOUSING: On-base housing is not authorized for non-command sponsored dependents. Therefore, dependents who live on the economy may encounter housing standards that are different from the United States. Local transportation (taxi, bus) is available, but gets expensive after repeated use and is not available 24 hours a day.

FURNITURE: Furniture is not available for non-command sponsored dependents or those serving an unaccompanied tour living off base.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Military members who elect to bring their non-command sponsored dependents to Korea should realize that additional transportation beyond the CONUS port is not reimbursable. In addition, the service member's household goods shipping allowance is limited to either unaccompanied hold baggage allowance or 10% of the sponsor's JFTR weight allowance. Service members who live on the economy are sometimes not entitled to full overseas housing allowance or, if entitled, are only provided at the single rate.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Employment opportunities for spouses, both command-and non-command sponsored are very limited.

CHILD CARE FACILITIES: Due to Osan's limited child care facilities, command-sponsored active duty military requiring full-time care are given top priority. Non-command sponsored dependents can be withdrawn from Osan's child care facility if higher-priority applications are submitted.

DEPENDENT EDUCATION: Non-command sponsored children are enrolled on a space available basis at Seoul American High School (SAHS), Osan American High School, Osan American Middle School, and Osan American Elementary School. Non-command sponsored students may apply to enroll in the International Christian School (K-12), but space is limited and tuition is fairly expensive.

OBSTETRICS CARE: Although there is prenatal care at Osan, deliveries cannot be done on Air Force installations in Korea. Deliveries are done at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul. Expectant mothers must be admitted at 36 weeks gestation.

MEDICAL CARE: Availability of medical care is based on the active duty population and non-command sponsored dependents are seen only on a space available basis. The hospital at Osan is not staffed or equipped to service a large number of non-command sponsored dependents. Additionally, many of the specialties, for example, cardiology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, endocrinology, and pulmonology are only available through air evacuation.

TRI-CARE: There are no guaranteed payment reimbursements—non-command sponsored dependents are only authorized to participate in Tri-care standard. Off-base treatment must be paid in full at the time of service. The sponsor then files a claim with the original home area primary care manager. Reimbursements are decided on a case by case basis.

DENTAL CARE: Most dental services are offered to active duty and command-sponsored family members. Routine dental care (filling and cleanings) to other beneficiaries is on a space available basis. Orthodontic care is extremely limited. First priority is given to command-sponsored family members who were receiving orthodontic treatment prior to their sponsor receiving PCS orders to Osan AB.

USFK DRIVERS LICENSE: All Command Sponsored (SOFA status) USFK military personnel, USFK civilian appropriated and non-appropriated employees, USFK technical representatives and family members of the aforementioned personnel must possess a USFK Form 134EK (USFK Motor Vehicle Operator's Permit), valid stateside, ROK, or international drivers license to drive POVs on U.S. installations and Korean roadways. Non-command sponsored dependents must also meet the above criteria however they are also required to obtain an exception to policy letter signed by the first O-5 in the sponsor's chain of command.
(Ref USFK 190-1, Dated 1 Nov 10, Para, 5-3, c.)

FAMILY MEMBER PASSPORTS AND VISA: As a military member, you are not required to have a passport and visa in Korea. However, all family members, fiancées, or friends visiting Korea must have a valid passport and visa BEFORE entering Korea, although Korea does allow visitors without a visa to enter the country for less than 30 days. Visas should be obtained in Korean Consulates outside Korea. If a visitor stays past 30 days, he or she will fall under the jurisdiction of Korean Immigration. There is no guarantee Korean Immigration will permit residence beyond the original 30 days. People staying past 30 days without obtaining proper authorization from Korean Immigration are subject to fines and possible legal action. The process for obtaining a resident visa must be done in person at the Korean Immigration Office in Seoul. The Military Personnel Section Passport Office has a map to this office, but cannot act as a liaison between the applicant and the immigration office. The Korean immigration office at Osan is located in bldg 661, phone 784-4042. WE CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING THE CORRECT VISA BEFORE ENTERING THE COUNTRY. Additionally, any dependents not in possession of a passport or who require a visa should contact Military Personnel Section Passport Office at 784-6060 for guidance.

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA) STAMP IN DEPENDENT PASSPORTS: Except for Korean Nationals who have no need of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), all dependents of active duty military who are residing here should have their passports SOFA stamped. To obtain the SOFA stamp, the sponsor must come to the Passport Office, bldg 936, room 121, with the dependent's passport. The sponsor will be given a Verification of Assignment Letter which, accompanied with the passport, must be taken to the Immigration Office located in bldg 661, phone 784-4042. The passport will then be SOFA stamped. This passport entry should be obtained as soon as possible after entering the ROK since dependents may not leave the country without it.

Command Sponsorship versus Non-Command Sponsorship Benefits Comparison Matrix

Benefits / Entitlements	Command Sponsored	Non-Command Sponsored	Remarks
Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP)	Yes	Yes	Army/Air Force - \$300/month for extending one year. Navy - E6 and below can bid on hard to fill positions up to \$500/month. Marines can extend for one year and receive \$166.67/month. Best to submit AIP request as early as possible and prior to Command Sponsorship request whenever possible.
Basic Allowance For Housing (BAH)	No	Yes, if family resides in States	BAH is an amount of money authorized to assist a member is defraying the housing cost incurred by Service Members assigned to a Permanent Duty Station within the continental U.S. (CONUS). It is also paid to defray the housing cost incurred by a member when housing is maintained in CONUS by the dependents while the member serves an unaccompanied tour.
Child, Youth, & School Services (CYSS)	Yes	Space A for NCS families	Each installation commander establishes a priority system which clearly states military and civilian access to CYSS programs. First priority will be given to active duty military and DoD civilian personnel who are either single or dual working parents working outside their home or a single full-time student. Exceptions are managed on a case-by-case basis.
College Education	Yes	SM=Yes, FM=Space A	Space available in the class room.
Commissary	Yes	Yes	Must have Ration Control Card.
Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)	Yes	Yes	COLA is based on duty location, rank, time in service and number of dependents.
Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS)	Yes	Yes	Effective 1 May 05, USFK policy is that all children, regardless of age, are to be registered in DBIDS. All sponsors, especially recent arrivals to Korea, should ensure all of their family members are registered in DBIDS to ensure that correct ration control limits are set for the true family size. To register a child under 10 in DBIDS, please bring an original/certified copy of the child's birth or adoption certificate or their US passport. Please also have the child's social security number available.
Dental Services	Yes	SM=Yes, FM=Space A	Non-command sponsored family members can be seen on a space available basis. They can also go off post using TRICARE Concordia insurance at designated dental offices.
Dislocation Allowance (DLA)	Yes	No	The purpose of DLA is to partially reimburse a member, with or without dependents, for the expenses incurred in relocating the member's household while on a PCS move. The amount of DLA payable is based on rank and whether the member is serving on an accompanied or unaccompanied tour. DLA is only paid to single Service Members when are required to move into economy housing. DLA equals 2.5 x BAQ.

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Department of Defense Dependent Schools Korea (DoDDS-K)	Priority I	Priority III	<p>Category 1 Space required tuition free: Command sponsored dependents of U.S. military and DoD civilians with orders to Korea. Space required, tuition paying: These students will be enrolled and guaranteed a classroom seat..</p> <p>Category 2 Space available, tuition paying, Students whose sponsors are employed by other Federal agencies. These students will be wait listed and will be the first to be offered classroom seats. First priority will be given to returning students.</p> <p>Category 3 Space available, tuition free: Non-command sponsored dependents of U.S. military. Students whose sponsors are military and other special categories that are not on PCS orders and command-sponsored. These students will be wait listed. Priority for these students will be given to returning students of military and civilian sponsors assigned to commuting area by their initial enrollment date; new military dependents; and new civilian dependents.</p> <p>Category 4 Space Available, tuition paying: Dependents of private U.S. citizens (including retired U.S. military) and citizens of foreign countries. Students whose sponsors are other U.S. citizens or Foreign Nationals will not be enrolled.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact the District Superintendent's Office at DSN 738-5922.</p>
Family Member Employment	FM must have A-3 Visa	FM must have A-3 Visa	Non-command families are not eligible to work without a A-3 visa or they must obtain a work permit to live and work in South Korea.
Family Separation Allowance	No	Yes, if family resides in States	An amount of money authorized to Service Members to compensate for added expenses incurred due to enforced separation from the family members. Service Members are entitled to receive FSA Type II if transportation of their dependents is not authorized to the new duty station and dependents do not live in the vicinity of the member's station. Service Members must be separated from his/her family for a period of more then 30 days. The rate payable is \$250 per month. This allowance is authorized by finance during inprocessing

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Family Separation Housing	No	Yes, if family resides in States	An amount of money authorized to assist a member in defray the housing costs incurred by Service Members assigned to PDS outside CONUS. It is paid to Service Members who are required to reside in private rental quarters because Government quarters are not available and their dependents reside elsewhere. It is NOT payable if the dependents reside within the same country in which the Service Member's PDS is located.
Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Programs	Yes	Yes	If you are a US ID holder, you are authorized FMWR services. It is not based on whether you are Command or Non-Command sponsored.
Government Furniture	Yes	No	Non-command service members may only receive items for one person not the whole family. Exception of policy can allow full furniture based on the family needs.
Overseas Housing Allowances (OHA)	Yes, w/Deps Rate	Yes, if family resides in Korea	OHA is an amount of money authorized to assist a member in defraying the housing cost incurred by Service Members assigned to a Permanent Duty Station (PDS) outside the U.S. (OCONUS). It may also be paid while dependents are residing OCONUS while the member serves an unaccompanied tour. As of 1 Oct 05, Non-Cmd Sponsored families received the w/deps rate when the family resides with the service member in Korea over 90 days. A Service Member on active duty is authorized a housing allowance based on grade, dependency status, and location. Rates are prescribed depending on the member's grade and whether the member has dependents. The location not only determines the rate, but whether the type of allowance is BAH or OHA.
Legal Services	Yes	Yes	Legal services are available to all SM and their families on a first-come, first serve basis.
Housing on Post/Base	Yes	No	With command sponsorship approval, Gov't furnished family quarters must be available on post/base. On-base housing is not authorized for non-command sponsored dependents.

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Medical Services - TRICARE	TRICARE Prime	TRICARE Standard	<p>TRICARE Prime: Most care provided by a Primary Care Manager at a military treatment facility, referrals required for specialty care.</p> <p>TRICARE Standard: Annual deductible required. Pay a percentage of total cost (cost share), no referral required. Care at military treatment facilities is on a space-available basis only.</p> <p>Area I: Bldg 807, 730-4695</p> <p>Area II: Brian Allgood Hospital, Bldg 7005, Rm 1150, 736-7236</p> <p>Area III: Bldg S-555 inside Health Clinic 753-7708</p> <p>Area IV: Bldg S-221 inside Wood Clinic</p>
Noncombatant Operations	Yes	Yes	Non-command sponsored families will follow after all official command sponsored evacuees have been evacuated.
Patriot Express Space A Travel	Yes, See Remarks	Yes, See Remarks. Generally, NCS families are in Cat V.	<p>Category I: Emergency Travel (i.e., serious illness, death or pending death of immediate Family Member)</p> <p>Category II: Sponsors on Environmental Morale Leave (EML) and their dependents. DoDDS teachers and their accompanied family members in EML status during the school year and for Employer-approved training during recess periods.</p> <p>Category III: Members of the uniformed services in a leave or pass status (includes CSP dependents when accompanied by their sponsor)</p> <p>Category IV: Command sponsored dependents (18 years or older) flying unaccompanied on EML orders & DoDDS Teachers on EML during summer vacation. Must have CSP documents.</p> <p>Category V: Military personnel traveling on permissive TDY orders for other than house hunting. Unaccompanied CSP dependents (can travel between theatres, CONUS limitations apply). NCS dependents (can travel only to sponsors unaccompanied PCS location, authorized one 30 day visit per year).</p> <p>Category VI: Retired military members and dependents (up to age 23 with a valid identification card) when accompanied by a sponsor.</p>
Post/Base Exchange	Yes	Yes	Must have Ration Control Card.

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POV Licensing and Registration	Yes	E7 and Above (Yes) - E6 and below must request exception to policy	All command-sponsored Service and family members are authorized to obtain a USFK driver's license. Must have a SOFA Stamp Status to obtain a USFK Driver's License. Non-Command Sponsored dependents whose sponsor id E7 and above are permitted to obtain a USFK driver's license. For E6 and below, Non-Command Sponsored dependents require an exception to policy to obtain a USFK driver's license.
Ration Control Card (USFK 60-1)	Yes	Yes	Both receive cards once placed in DBIDS and attend Newcomers Orientation for their community.
SOFA Status	Yes	SM=Yes, FM=No	Except for Korean Nationals who have no need of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), all dependents of active duty military who are residing here should have their passports SOFA stamped. This an immigration ROK policy and must have CSP orders or O6 exception to policy for Non-Command Sponsored family members. If not, FMs can only remain in country for 90 days. Can return after gone for 24 hours. Repeat every 90 days. Osan POC is Military Personnel Flight Passport Office at 784-6719.
Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA)	Yes=for Whole Family	Yes=SM only	An amount of money designed to partially reimburse a member for the more than normal expenses incurred when the member and/or dependents are required to occupy temporary lodgings prior to moving into permanent quarters while OCONUS. Reimbursement consists of expenses for lodging and meals obtained as a direct result of using OCONUS temporary lodgings. Service Members must be authorized TLA by their local Housing Office prior to obtaining temporary lodging. TLA is authorized in 10 day increments up to a maximum of 60 days.
Tour Length	> 24 months	> 12 months	With CSP Approval, tour length must be at least 24 months
Transportation Agreement	Yes	SM only	With CSP Approval, concurrent travel is authorized and the Gov't is obligated to all transportation costs of family members. For NCS families, the Gov't is only obligated to move the SM at unaccompanied rate.
Veterinarian Services	Yes	Yes	USFK Reg 40-5, Para 4, part D, states that Veterinary care is authorized for pet owners possessing a valid DOD military identification card, and who have registered and implanted a microchip in their pet with the appropriate Vet Treatment Facility. Per AR 40-905, authorized veterinary services will be the same for personnel living off the installation as for those living on the installation, and for both active-duty and retired personnel.

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Women Infant and Children Program (WIC) Overseas	Yes	Yes	<p>The WIC Overseas Program is available to eligible participants living overseas, including DoD Civilians/Contractors, Family Members, and service members. Here is the WIC office contact information.</p> <p>Ms. Vaughn, WIC Overseas Program Manager, Yongsan DSN 736-6074</p> <p>Camp Casey: DSN 730-3436, COMM 0505-730-3436</p> <p>Camp Humphreys: DSN 753-6909, COMM 0505-753-6909</p> <p>Osan: DSN 784-3806, COMM 031-661-9426</p> <p>Daegu: DSN 768-9424, COMM 0505-768-9424</p>